

A New Species of *Poecilmitis* from the  
Roggeveldt Mountains of the Cape Province  
(Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera)

By D. A. SWANEPOEL

c/o J. J. Mostert, S.A.R. & H., Duiwelskloof, N. Transvaal,  
S. Africa

***Poecilmitis azurius* sp. nov.**

Allotype: Roggeveldt mountains, 5.10.1970 (D. A. Swanepoel).

Holotype: same locality and date, in the author's collection.

Paratype: Roggeveldt mountains, 21.10.1973, in collection Dr. J. Kaplan.

Diagnosis: a species close to *P. beaufortia charlesi* Dickson but differing in various respects. Basal blue extending further over the forewing than of that species, with the result that the spotting on the forewing upperside is faintly visible.

Forewing upperside: apical area black with orange markings. Orange markings in some males fairly distinct, in others indistinct. Spots on underside show through the basal blue. Cilia chequered. Outer margin fairly straight.

Hindwing upperside: basal blue, rather restricted, running from about two-thirds from the base of inner margin upwards for about 2mm., then bulging slightly towards outer margin and then turning to base of wing. In *P. beaufortia charlesi* the basal blue extends towards the apical area of hindwing. Spots in areas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. A very faint light blue over basal blue extending as far as marginal spots. This feature is absent in *P. beaufortia charlesi*. Spots in areas 3 and 4 not in line with those in 5, 6 and 7.

Underside: markings similar to that of *P. beaufortia charlesi*. In the hindwing of some specimens the brown of basal and apical areas are much more prominent and inclined to be reddish. In the holotype this colour is not as intense. Discocellular streak differently shaped than that of *P. beaufortia charlesi*. Female: as in many cases of the *Poecilmitis* complex this species and that of *P. beaufortia* and its subspecies are strikingly alike. Upperside: forewing outer margin broadly black and chequered. Spots on all wings well developed. Underside markings similar to some specimens of *P. lysander* Pennington.

This azure coloured species of *Poecilmitis* was first observed and netted by Messrs. C. Dickson and C. Wykeham in the Roggeveldt mountains in 1969. Much credit is due to them for opening the area to South African collectors. In 1970 the author took quite a number there including the allo and holotypes *in cop*. This species also shows some resemblance to *P. psyche* Penn. But in this complex there are others showing similarity to that species. The writer, however, regards this species a relative closer to *P. lysander* Penn. than to *P. psyche* Penn., its

habits being more like that of *P. lysander* than that of *P. psyche*.

Like most of the genus it is a rapid flier settling either on the ground or at times on short shrubs. Its favourite localities appear to be at the foot of mountains.

### *Parallelomma vittatum* (Meigen)

#### (Dipt.: Scatophagidae) in Spain

By K. P. BLAND

63 Charterhall Grove, Edinburgh, EH9 3HT

On 5th July, 1974, at 1,180m. by the Rio Ara in Garganta de Bujaruello in the Spanish Pyrenees, I found a single inhabited dipteran leafmine in *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz (Orchidaceae). On 7th and 8th July, 1974 a careful search of the helleborines between 1,100-1,300m. in the woods of the Ordesa Valley (also in Huesca Province) yielded a further 17 similar leafmines in three different species of helleborine:—

	<i>Number of plants with mines</i>	<i>Number of live larvae</i>
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i> (L.)		
Crantz	7*	1
<i>Cephalanthra longifolia</i>		
(Huds.) Fritsch	7*	3
<i>Cephalanthra rubra</i> (L.)		
L. C. Rich	1	1

\* One plant had two leaves mined.

Of these 6 living larvae 3 successfully left the leafmine and formed a puparium, but only one of these yielded an imago (emerged 29th July, 1974), the other two becoming desiccated. Using Séguy (1934a) the imago was identified as *Parallelomma vittatum* (Meigen, 1826) (identity confirmed by Dr. J. R. Vockeroth, Entomology Research Institute, Canada) and was derived from a leafmine in *Epipactis helleborine* found in the Ordesa Valley. All the leafmines from the three species of Helleborine showed a similar form and hence most probably were made by *P. vittatum*. This appears to be the first record of this orchid-mining Scathophagidae from Spain; it is not mentioned in the catalogues of Spanish diptera by Czerny and Strobl (1909) or Séguy (1934b).

#### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr. J. R. Vockeroth, Entomology Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada, for his kind assistance and to Dr. R. P. García, Instituto Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Huesca, for permission to collect insects in Parque Nacional del Valle de Ordesa, Huesca, Spain.